

Appl. No. 09/821,953
Atty. Docket No. 7973MR
Amdt. dated March 26, 2004
Reply to Office Action of January 29, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 38-47, 49-60 and 64-89 are now in the case.

Applicants have cancelled claim 48 without prejudice.

Applicants have cancelled claims 61-63 as being directed to a non-elected invention.

Applicants may pursue the cancelled claims in a continuing application.

Applicants have added claims 64-89 to claim additional features.

Applicants have amended independent claims 38, 43, 50 and 58 to include the features of a macroscopically three-dimensional substrate having a first outward surface and a second outward surface, wherein at least one of the outward surfaces has a macroscopic three dimensional texture, the macroscopic three dimensional texture being defined by peaks and valleys.

Applicants have amended claims 44, 45 and 50 to correct grammatical errors.

Each of these amendments is supported by the specification, claims and drawings as filed (see page 15, lines 30-35, page 21, lines 31-36, and page 22, lines 1-25 indicating that the disclosure of U.S. patent application serial No. 09/082,396, filed May 20, 1998 by Fereshtekhou et al., U.S. patent application serial No. 09/082,349 entitled NOVEL STRUCTURES USEFUL AS CLEANING SHEETS, filed May 20, 1998, by Fereshtekhou et al. and U.S. patent application serial No. 09/729,626 entitled NON-APERTURED CLEANING SHEETS HAVING NON-RANDOM MACROSCOPIC THREE-DIMENSIONAL CHARACTER, filed November 30, 2000, by Wong et al. were fully incorporated by reference).

Election/Restrictions

Applicants affirm the election of Group I, Claims 38-60, without traverse.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claim 48 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

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Applicants have cancelled claim 48 therefore mooted the rejection.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 38-41 and 58 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Metrick '293.

Applicants submit that independent claims 38 and 58 have been amended and now include the features of a macroscopically three-dimensional substrate having a first outward surface and a second outward surface, wherein at least one of the outward surfaces has a macroscopic three dimensional texture, the macroscopic three dimensional texture being defined by peaks and valleys.

Applicants submit that Metrick '293 does not teach or suggest a cleaning sheet having a macroscopically three-dimensional substrate having a first outward surface and a second outward surface, wherein at least one of the outward surfaces has a macroscopic three dimensional texture, the macroscopic three dimensional texture being defined by peaks and valleys.

Consequently, it is Applicants' position that the amendments overcome the rejections.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35. U.S.C. 102/103

Claims 43-47, 50-52, 55, 59 and 60 have been rejected under 35. U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Metrick '293.

Claims 38-60 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Lerner et al. '292 in view of Metrick '293.

For the sake of brevity, Applicants submit that the arguments presented in the previous section regarding the Metrick reference also apply to the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejections of the claims as being anticipated by Metrick '293 or being obvious over Lerner et al. '292 in view of Metrick '293.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

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It is submitted that all the claims are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action on all claims is therefore requested.

If the next action is other than to allow the claims, the favor of a telephonic interview is requested with the undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,
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